

To: Yeh, Alice[Yeh.Alice@epa.gov]
From: Donald Harris
Sent: Sun 5/11/2014 12:26:58 PM
Subject: Expanding opportunities for greater Newark, NJ, residents participation in the Passaic River, discussion making process.

Ms. Yeh:

As stated during EPA's FFS Hearing (the conversation you and I had, pre formal Presentation, and during the break), there are well founded reasons, too expand the outreach process, beyond Broad Street.

In July 1996, the " Federal Interagency Working Group"(the Working Group on Brownfields) was established as a forum for federal agencies to exchange information on Brownfields activities and to develop a coordinated national agenda for addressing issues related to Brownfields.

No where in the recently released FFS Plan, was there any mention of a coordinated effort, too involve other federal agencies, in the Passaic River clean-up plans. Nor was there any mention of the Federal Work Group, indicated above.

Newark, NJ, with many of the same economic, political, and social challenges, which impact other urban centers, could benefit greatly, from such a coordinated effort.

The inclusion of other related federal agencies, in the Passaic River clean-up, would offer a community-centered , approach to the proposed FFS.

Newark, NJ, has one of the highest unemployment rates in the region, and an even higher level amongst it's youth.

Utilizing, the clean-up of the Passaic River, as a comprehensive community, and economic development tool, is much needed. And most certainly be more sustainable, in both the short and long term.

The projected cost for cleaning up the River, is estimated to be between 1.7-5.0 billion dollars, over the next 7-20 years. If used in a more community/human development mode, would enhance life outcomes, for current and future residents of the City, State, and Region.

Expanding EPA's outreach plan, too include greater African American and Latino participation, is Mandated. As such, I would like to recommend the following:

- *. Include more African American and Latino participation/membership ,in the CAG;
- *. Conducting official Hearings, at Essex County College, a location that is acceptable, and accessible to all of the City's residents;
- *. Developing and distributing youth-centeted literature, at every level of the community, including schools, churches, community centers, etc.;and
- *. Briefing the City's Clergy;
- *. Embrace/sponsoring a major and sustainable youth development and small business creation program.

I welcome the opportunity to elevating our emails, too a working relationship (discussions).

Donald